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Agenda item 17

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE SECOND DECADE TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

Report of the Social Committee

1. The Social Committee considered the question of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (agenda item 17) at its 1st to 3rd, 6th and 9th meetings on 7, 8, 12 and 14 July 1993. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (E/1993/71).

2. At the 1st to 3rd meetings, the Committee held a general discussion on the item. At the 1st meeting, on 7 July, the Committee heard an introductory statement by the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights.

3. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Belgium (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Economic Community), Chile, the United States of America, the Bahamas, China and Denmark (on behalf of the Nordic countries).

4. At the 2nd meeting, on 8 July, statements were made by the representatives of Nigeria, Canada and Turkey and the observers for Senegal, New Zealand and Namibia.

5. At the 3rd meeting, on 8 July, statements were made by the representatives of Mexico, the Russian Federation, Bangladesh, Ukraine, Cuba and Benin.

GE.93-70259 (E)

Action taken by the Social Committee

Third decade to combat racism and racial discrimination

6. At the 6th meeting, on 12 July, the observer for Senegal, 1/ on behalf of the African States, introduced a draft resolution (E/1993/C.2/L.1) entitled "Third decade to combat racism and racial discrimination". Subsequently, France joined in sponsoring the draft resolution. In introducing the draft resolution, the observer for Senegal orally revised it as follows:

In the sixth preambular paragraph, the words "in 1993" were inserted between the words "should proclaim" and "a third decade" and the words "national and" were inserted between the words "as a means of intensifying" and "international efforts".

7. At the 9th meeting, on 14 July, the Secretary of the Committee informed the Committee that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

8. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the draft resolution, as orally revised (see para. 10 below).

9. After the draft resolution was adopted, the representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland made a statement.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SOCIAL COMMITTEE

10. The Social Committee recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:

DRAFT RESOLUTION

Third decade to combat racism and racial discrimination

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 1992/13 of 20 July 1992,

Reaffirming the purpose set forth in the Charter of the United Nations of achieving international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

Recalling that in resolution 1992/13, the Council requested the Secretary-General to prepare a draft programme of action for the third decade and to submit it to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session, taking into account, inter alia, the elements of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade that have not yet been fully implemented,

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1/ In accordance with rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council.

Recalling that the General Assembly, in resolution 47/77 of 16 December 1992, took note of the report of the Secretary-General 2/ and requested him to submit a new draft programme of action to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session,

Having examined the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade, 3/

Convinced that it is necessary that the General Assembly proclaim in 1993 a third decade to combat racism and racial discrimination as a means of intensifying national and international efforts in this field,

Taking into account the progress made towards the building of a democratic and united South Africa not based on racial prejudices,

Emphasizing that it is the responsibility of the Government of South Africa to take all necessary measures to stop immediately the violence in that country and to protect the life and property of all South Africans,

Emphasizing also the need for all parties to cooperate in combating violence and to exercise restraint,

Bearing in mind the Declaration on Apartheid and its Destructive Consequences in Southern Africa, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution S-16/1 of 14 December 1989 and contained in the annex thereto,

Deeply concerned about the prevalence of racism and racial tensions as well as the rising tide of xenophobia,

Stressing the need to continue the coordination of activities undertaken by various United Nations bodies and specialized agencies for the purpose of implementing the Programme of Action for the Second Decade,

1. Declares that all forms of racism and racial discrimination, particularly in their institutionalized forms, such as apartheid, or resulting from official doctrines of racial superiority or exclusivity, are among the most serious violations of human rights in the contemporary world and must be combated by all available means;

2. Recommends that the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session proclaim a third decade to combat racism and racial discrimination;

3. Requests the Secretary-General, in preparing the draft programme of action for the third decade, to accord the highest priority to activities aiming at monitoring the transition from apartheid to a non-racist society in South Africa;

2/ A/47/432.

3/ E/1993/71.

4. Requests the Secretary-General to take into account the results of the World Conference on Human Rights and the discussion held during the substantive session of 1993 of the Economic and Social Council in the preparation of the programme of action for the third decade;

5. Considers that voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund for the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination are indispensable for the implementation of the above-mentioned programmes;

6. Calls upon the international community to provide the Secretary-General with appropriate financial resources for efficient action against racism and racial discrimination;

7. Decides to accord the highest priority to the agenda item entitled "Implementation of the programme of action for the third decade to combat racism and racial discrimination".